having a population of 14,40,21,915. In order to generate employment and development in these towns the Union Government launched the Integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns (IDSMT) Scheme in the year 1979-80. As on 31st March, 2002, out of 4565 towns, 1172 towns have been covered under the scheme and Central assistance of Rs. 520.33 crores have been released so far.

**Water charges fixed by DDA in dwarka**

3074. SHRIMATI GURCHARAN KAUR: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the per month per dwelling unit water charges fixed by DDA in different areas of Delhi;

(b) whether DDA has fixed water charges @ Rs. 200 per month from owners of Group Housing Society Flats in Dwarka from back date without considering their date of possession or date of individual connections;

(c) the criteria for fixing water charges and the date from which these have been charged;

(d) the reasons for fixing such exorbitant flat rates instead of meter reading basis; and

(e) whether water charges would be rationalised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.